

§ 979.27

voter to cast one vote for each position to be filled;

(d) The public member and alternate member shall be nominated by the members of the committee. The public member and alternate member shall not be growers or handlers, or employees of growers or handlers. The committee shall recommend rules for receiving names of persons to be considered for nomination to the public member and alternate positions. Rules shall also be recommended for establishing eligibility of persons nominated to the public member and alternate positions. The persons nominated for the public member and alternate positions shall be submitted by the incumbent committee to the Secretary by January 15, or such other date recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary, of the years the terms expire together with information deemed pertinent by the committee or as requested by the Secretary. The names of the nominees for the initial public member and alternate shall be submitted to the Secretary not later than 90 days after the first regular meeting of the initial South Texas Melon Committee.

§ 979.27 Selection.

Committee members and alternates shall be selected by the Secretary on the basis of representation provided for in § 979.22 from nominations made pursuant to § 979.26.

§ 979.28 Failure to nominate.

If nominations, including initial nominations, are not made within the time and manner prescribed in § 979.26, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the members and alternates on the basis of the representation provided for in § 979.22.

§ 979.29 Acceptance.

Any person selected by the Secretary as member or as an alternate member of the committee shall, prior to serving as such, qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary within the time period specified by the Secretary.

§ 979.30 Vacancies.

To fill committee vacancies, the Secretary may select members or alter-

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nates from nominees on the latest nomination reports or from nominations made in the manner specified in § 979.26 or from other eligible persons. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within 30 days after such vacancy occurs, the vacancy may be filled without regard to nomination, but such selection shall be made on the basis of representation provided for in § 979.22.

§ 979.31 Alternate member.

An alternate member of the committee shall act in the place and stead of the member for whom he is an alternate, during such member's absence or when designated to do so by such member. In the event both a member of the committee and his alternate are unable to attend a committee meeting, the member or his alternate or the committee, in that order, may designate another alternate from the same district and the same group (handler or grower) to serve in such member's stead. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor of such member is selected and has qualified. The committee may request the attendance of alternates at any or all meetings, notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members.

§ 979.32 Procedure.

(a) Seven members of the committee shall be necessary to constitute a quorum and the same number of concurring votes shall be required to pass any motion or approve any committee actions.

(b) In assembled meetings all votes shall be cast in person. However, the committee may provide for meetings by telephone, telegraph, or other means of communication and any vote cast at such meetings shall be promptly confirmed in writing and recorded in the minutes of each meeting so as to reflect how each member voted.

§ 979.33 Expenses.

Members and alternates, when serving as members of the committee, shall serve without compensation but shall